

EVERGREEN CHURCH

“THE CHURCH ON THE HILL”



Annual Report

2025



www.evergreenchurchonthehill.com



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AGENDA

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

- Establishing the Call
- Quorum
- Clerk for the meeting

OPENING PRAYER

MEETING OF THE CORPORATION

(approved by Session)

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

INTRODUCTION

MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORTS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

- Church officers
- Election of two at-large Nominating Committee members

ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

CONGREGATIONAL QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

AUTHORIZING SESSION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING

ADJOURNMENT OF THE CONGREGATIONAL AND CORPORATION MEETING

CLOSING PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

By scripture alone
By faith alone
By grace alone
Through Christ alone
To the glory of God alone

As we reflect on 2025, we recognize it as a year marked by perseverance, discernment, and deep faithfulness. This annual report tells the story of a congregation that has weathered significant challenges while continuing to show up for one another, for our community, and for God's work among us.

The past year brought moments of uncertainty and fatigue alongside moments of resolve and hope. Evergreen faced practical and emotional demands—from ongoing care of our aging facilities and major roof repairs, to staffing and leadership transitions, to the steady pressures of rising costs and limited resources. These realities required difficult conversations, careful stewardship, and a renewed commitment to shared responsibility.

Yet even in the midst of these challenges, Evergreen remained grounded in its calling. Worship continued, ministries adapted, and community connections endured. Time and again, members stepped forward with generosity, flexibility, and prayer, reminding us that the strength of this church lies not in its building alone, but in its people.

This year also invited us to slow down and ask important questions about sustainability, priorities, and how God is shaping our future. While not all answers are clear, 2025 has been a year of laying groundwork—spiritually, relationally, and structurally—for what comes next.

Within these pages, you will find evidence of a congregation that has chosen faithfulness over ease and community over isolation. We give thanks for the resilience shown, the grace extended, and the quiet, faithful acts that often go unseen but sustain the life of the church.

As we look ahead, we do so with humility and hope, trusting that God continues to walk with Evergreen. May this report serve not only as a record of where we have been, but as a reminder that even in seasons of challenge, God is at work—shaping, refining, and sustaining us together.

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PASTOR REPORT

One of my last responsibilities in ending the year 2025 is the writing of my annual report, which I started thinking about on the last day of 2025, and which I started writing on the third day of January...another wet and cold day. When I was growing up, I remember hearing about a church that had an Old Year's Eve Worship Service. The pastor would usually deal with the dark themes of the frailty and mortality of human life, as well as lessons learned and gratitude received for all of God's love and faithfulness.

An annual report can do without the dark themes of human life, but it should deal with lessons learned and gratitude received. I will remember 2025 as another year in which we were able to share God's love and faithfulness in so many ways and work together towards a clearer understanding of our life and mission together.

This was a year in which the Session decided anew how it would work together, engage in discussion, and make decisions concerning our relationship and work with other organizations in our community. We returned to a focus on the care and treatment of our property and our buildings, as we strongly work together to make our sanctuary and our Christian education building protected and beautiful. We regained some momentum to support our church's efforts to provide a caring and nurturing environment for our children, our youth, and our elderly in programs, education, and missions.

In addition, in 2025, we continued in our call to bring the love of God to our community and the world through our mission efforts. In the fall and winter, we started a partnership with Associated Ministries with Pierce County to support our neighbors with housing issues. Once again, we joined efforts with our school system to provide Thanksgiving boxes and Christmas boxes to a number of families in our community. We collected about 30 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. And we continue to host the Senior group from Graham and Kapowsin, as well as the chapters for Girl Scouts and the Gardening Club.

With ever-changing needs in our church family, I have been doing what I can to do more calling on our active and inactive members; and my time spent advocating for programs for our youngest to our oldest.

PASTOR REPORT

Pastorally, there have been many highlights during the year. There were many opportunities to provide pastoral care during the times of baptism, marriages, and funerals. Our Lord has called many of our Saints home. It is always a joy when couples choose to have their weddings with us. Then, in the fall, I was called by our Presbytery to serve as moderator of Montesano Church and its session. This is certainly a privilege, and I hope to represent Evergreen Church well and good.

I continue to be thankful for the faithful and diligent work of you, my church family. There is still work that remains for us to do together. We need to find fresh ways to involve more of our members in the life and mission of our church. We need to challenge each other in the stewardship of our time, talents, and treasures. We need to make serving as an elder, a deacon, or committee member something which is expected and respected – something which is both a privilege and a responsibility. We need to become more inviting of our friends and neighbors to all of our wonderful programs, our worship, and our mission projects, which give honor to our God. We need to be powered by prayer, the Holy Spirit, and God-given creativity.

I hope the following prayer by Grenville Kleiser will provide each of us with a new resolve in 2026.

**If I can do some good today,
If I can aid one in distress,
If I can serve along life's way,
If I can make a burden less,
If I can something helpful say,
If I can spread more happiness,
Lord, show me how.**

May God's blessings be with you always!

Pastor Mike



“ Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. ~ Acts 20:28 ”

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

As we reflect on 2025, we give thanks for the opportunity to lead Evergreen's congregation in worship and to continue growing together in faith. Throughout the year, the Worship Team remained committed to creating a meaningful and welcoming worship environment where our church family could encounter God through music, prayer, and praise. This report highlights the year's accomplishments, acknowledges challenges along the way, and shares our ongoing vision to faithfully support worship and encourage spiritual growth within the Evergreen community.

WORSHIP TEAM:

The Worship Team provided faithful support for weekly worship services throughout the year. Their dedication, flexibility, and spirit of collaboration made it possible for worship to continue smoothly during a year of change. We are deeply thankful for their commitment and for the vital role they play in creating meaningful and welcoming worship experiences for our congregation.

This annual report reflects on the team's journey in 2025, highlighting key accomplishments, acknowledging challenges, and sharing our vision for the future of Evergreen's worship ministry.

Team Structure

Our Worship Team continues to consist of talented musicians and vocalists who generously dedicate their time and gifts to enhance the worship experience at Evergreen Church. In 2025, the Worship Team was composed of the following individuals:

- **Vocals:** [Fae Swetz, David Swetz, Takemi Marston, Derrick Marston, Ana Staudenraus]
 - {Guests: Jenna Swetz, Judy Spencer}
- **Guitarists:** [Derrick Marston]
- **Drummers/Percussionists:** [Warren Spencer, Alice Cunningham, Ana Staudenraus]
- **Keyboard/Piano:** [David Swetz, Kirsten Lampson, Rosie Thun]
- **Bass:** [Derrick Marston, Ayden Staudenraus, Ana Staudenraus]
- **Sound & Technical Team:** [Ana Staudenraus, Ron Terry II, Paul Vrieze, Karen Murad, Ayden Staudenraus, Betty Halbert]

Musical Highlights of the Year

- **Worship Services:**

- The Worship Team faithfully led music and worship during Sunday services, special events, and holy days throughout the year, including Christmas and Easter. Worship ministry continued to be at the heart of Sunday mornings, creating space for congregational connection, prayer, and spiritual growth.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

- ***New Song Introductions:***

- During 2025, the Worship Team introduced 5 new songs, including both contemporary worship music and classic hymns. These additions enriched the worship experience and encouraged greater congregational participation.

- ***Collaborations with Other Ministries:***

- The Worship Committee worked in collaboration with the Hospitality Committee to host an Easter Sunrise Service, reflecting shared ministry and teamwork across the church.

Challenges Faced

- ***Health and Changes in Team Members:***

- In 2025, the Worship Team faced several challenges, especially during flu season when illness affected many members. Even when they weren't feeling their best, the team showed remarkable faithfulness and perseverance. They stayed committed to rehearsals and continued to lead Sunday worship with joy and dedication. Together, we pushed through those difficult weeks, ensuring that our music still created meaningful, Spirit-filled moments of worship for the entire congregation.

- ***Technical Difficulties:***

- Throughout 2025, the Worship Team and our technical crew faced several technical hurdles that tested our patience and resourcefulness. We encountered occasional — and sometimes sudden — difficulties with sound and audio equipment, including microphones cutting out, and speakers producing feedback.
- On top of that, we dealt with recurring computer-related issues: presentation software, computers unexpectedly shutting down, projector connections, and lyric/projection software issues during worship. These problems often occur at the most inconvenient moments.
- Despite these challenges, the technical team responded with remarkable diligence, quickly troubleshooting on the spot whenever possible. When issues proved too complex or time-sensitive to resolve internally, we were incredibly thankful for the prompt and skilled assistance we received from outside volunteers. Their expertise helped us diagnose problems, perform necessary repairs, and restore everything in time to keep worship flowing smoothly with minimal disruption to the congregation.
- Through equipment failures, computer crashes, and every unexpected glitch, the combined commitment of our in-house team and the generous help from external support ensured that the technical side of worship remained as steady and reliable as possible all year long.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Looking Ahead

As we move into the coming year, we look forward with anticipation to the continued growth and development of Evergreen's worship ministry. With gratitude for where God has led us, we remain attentive to new opportunities to strengthen and enrich our shared worship life. Key areas of focus include:

- *Expanding Musical Offerings:*
 - *The Worship Team plans to continue introducing new songs that align with We incorporated original hymns with various changes to update to a contemporary feel and that also reflects our faith.*
- *Investing in Team Growth:*
 - Ongoing training and development for musicians and vocalists will remain a priority, supporting both musical excellence and spiritual grounding as the team grows together in faith and skill.
- *Diversity in Worship:*
 - We seek to broaden our worship expression by exploring a variety of musical styles and genres, honoring the diversity within our congregation and creating worship experiences that are meaningful and inclusive.
- *Continued Care for Team Members:*
 - The Worship Team remains committed to supporting one another, especially those who have experienced personal challenges. Encouragement, flexibility, and care will continue to be central as members heal, grow, and return to active ministry.

Despite the challenges faced during the year, the Worship Team remained steadfast in its commitment to creating a welcoming and vibrant worship environment for the congregation. We are grateful for the continued support, prayers, and encouragement of the Evergreen church community, and we look forward with hope and anticipation to the future.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who volunteered, prayed for, and supported the Worship Team throughout the year. Together, we look ahead to another year of faithful service, musical excellence, spiritual growth, and worship that glorifies God. Thank you for your continued support.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

COLLABRATIVE WORSHIP:

Congregational singing continued to be a cornerstone of worship at Evergreen Church throughout 2025. Through the collective voices of the congregation, worship services were marked by unity, praise, and thoughtful reflection. Singing together allowed us to express our faith, celebrate God's goodness, and strengthen our connection with one another as the body of Christ.

Key Highlights:

- *Increased Participation:*
 - This year, there was a noticeable increase in congregational engagement during worship services. More individuals participated actively in singing, contributing to a more vibrant and unified worship environment. We were especially blessed by the many volunteers who shared their musical gifts during Summer Special Music, which was a true joy and encouragement to the congregation.
- *Diverse Song Selections:*
 - This year, there was a noticeable increase in congregational engagement during worship services. More individuals participated actively in singing, contributing to a more vibrant and unified worship environment. We were especially blessed by the many volunteers who shared their musical gifts during Summer Special Music, which was a true joy and encouragement to the congregation.
- *Special Worship Services:*
 - Easter, Christmas, and a Memorial Service featured extended congregational singing, creating powerful moments of shared worship as we celebrated our Christian faith together.
- *Spiritual Growth:*
 - Many in the congregation shared that music played an important role in helping them focus on God and experience deeper moments of spiritual reflection. Singing together not only strengthened our sense of community but also created space for personal connection with God.

COMMUNION:

Throughout 2025, Communion remained a central and meaningful part of worship at Evergreen Church. As the congregation gathered around the table to share the bread and the cup, we remembered Christ's sacrifice and the grace made available through His death and resurrection. Communion offered a sacred time for reflection, repentance, and renewal of faith.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

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Communion was celebrated monthly during Sunday worship services, providing a consistent opportunity for the congregation to pause and reflect on Christ's love and saving work.

This sacred practice continues to remind us of the unity we share as believers. As we partake together, we are reminded that we are one body in Christ, joined together regardless of background or circumstance.

In conclusion, Communion remains a vital spiritual practice that strengthens our relationship with God and deepens our connection with one another. We are grateful for the opportunity to share this holy meal together and look forward to continuing to grow in understanding and appreciation of its profound meaning.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS:

Throughout 2025, Communion remained a central and meaningful part of worship at Evergreen Church. As the congregation gathered around the table to share the bread and the cup, we remembered Christ's sacrifice and the grace made available through His death and resurrection. Communion offered a sacred time for reflection, repentance, and renewal of faith.

Challenges and Areas for Improvement:

- ***Balancing Personal Commitments:***

- Many volunteers balanced busy schedules alongside their commitments to the worship ministry. At times, maintaining a healthy balance between service and personal responsibilities was challenging. Leadership remained attentive to these needs, striving to support volunteers, show appreciation, and ensure that service remained life-giving rather than overwhelming.

- ***Technical and Logistical Hurdles:***

- Occasional challenges arose related to sound equipment, staging, and other logistical aspects of worship. Despite these hurdles, technical volunteers responded with dedication and problem-solving, working proactively to ensure that worship services continued to run smoothly.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

We are deeply grateful for each volunteer who shared their time, talents, and hearts in service this year. Their passion, commitment, and faithfulness have made a lasting impact on both the worship ministry and the wider congregation. We look forward with gratitude and hope to the continued growth of this incredible team in the year ahead.

SERMON SERIES:

Throughout 2025, the sermon series at Evergreen Church were thoughtfully designed to address the spiritual needs of the congregation while engaging broader themes of Christian faith and daily discipleship. Each series invited worshippers to deepen their understanding of Scripture, strengthen their relationship with God, and live out their faith in meaningful and practical ways. Below is a summary of the key sermon series offered during the year.

- ***"Understanding Discipleship from Galatians:" (January - March)***
 - This series explored the Apostle Paul's teachings in Galatians, focusing on Christian freedom, life in the Spirit, and what it means to live as disciples grounded in grace rather than law. Congregants were encouraged to reflect on how faith in Christ shapes daily living and community relationships.
- ***"5 Sundays of Lent/Palm Sunday/Easter:" (March- April)***
 - During the season of Lent, worship centered on repentance, humility, and preparation for the cross. The journey moved through Palm Sunday and culminated in Easter, celebrating Christ's resurrection and the hope, forgiveness, and new life found in Him.
- ***"In Light of the Resurrection - John:" (May - June)***
 - This series drew from the Gospel of John, reflecting on Jesus' post-resurrection appearances and teachings. Messages emphasized belief, renewal, and the call to follow Christ in light of His victory over death.
- ***"Lessons from the Psalms" (June - September)***
 - Through selected Psalms, this series explored themes of praise, lament, trust, and hope. Congregants were invited to engage honestly with God through prayer and worship, finding comfort and encouragement in the words of the psalmists.
- ***"Insights from I Peter" (October - September)***
 - Messages from First Peter focused on living faithfully amid challenge, emphasizing perseverance, holiness, and hope. This series encouraged believers to remain steadfast in faith while reflecting Christ's love in the world.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

- ***"Insights from Philippians" (November)***

- This series explored the Apostle Paul's teachings in Galatians, focusing on Christian freedom, life in the Spirit, and what it means to live as disciples grounded in grace rather than law. Congregants were encouraged to reflect on how faith in Christ shapes daily living and community relationships.

- ***"Advent Series/Christmas" (November-December)***

- The Advent season invited the congregation to prepare their hearts for the coming of Christ, reflecting on themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. The series culminated in Christmas celebrations that rejoiced in the birth of Jesus and the gift of God's presence among us.

The sermon series offered in 2025 served as a meaningful tool for spiritual formation, helping equip Evergreen's congregation to live more intentionally as followers of Christ. We are grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow together and look forward to the continued work God will do in and through our church in the year ahead.

BAPTISM(S) IN 2025:

Duncan Oliver Marston

MEMORIAL SERVICES HELD IN 2025:

Zack Yanogo

In 2025, we had the honor of hosting a memorial service for the Yanogo family. It was a beautiful and deeply meaningful gathering, as many came together to celebrate Zack's life. Our sanctuary was filled to capacity with love, remembrance, and support. With more than 130 people in attendance—the largest service Evergreen has hosted in many years—the fellowship that followed was a powerful reflection of community, compassion, and shared gratitude for a life well lived.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY IN 2025:

Larry Grout (Celebration of Life Set in March)



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

EVERGREEN CHOIR:

“

Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done
marvelous things! ~ Psalms 98:1

”

Addressing one another in psalms and hymns and
spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord
with your heart. ~ Ephesians 5:19

The Evergreen Choir continues to be a small group of church members that love to sing for the Lord. This past year we sang throughout the year but did not have a set schedule for rehearsals. Judi Spencer and Bob Collins shared the responsibility of leading the choir.

The role of a church choir is to perform challenging and beautiful music to praise God, edify the church, and provide moments of spiritual connection. Our small choir, usually 6-12 members in attendance, did just that. Our choir members love to sing for, and to, the Lord. The choir sang throughout the year for various services, including Easter and Christmas Eve.

The church hosted a Christmas Sing-Along on Saturday, December 13th, combined with the annual holiday cookie sale.

Music is of great significance and value to the church service. Thank you to all choir members - Let us continue to lift our voices and sing to the Lord!

Judi Spencer



CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

NURSERY: AGES 0-5

Our teacher/leader in the nursery is Shannon Hamilton. She has continued to do an amazing job with our little ones.

Over the past year, we've been working on updating our newly appointed infant and toddler rooms. There remains only a few more projects until these rooms are truly complete, yet they are usable and great as they stand now. Ana Staudenraus came up with a beautiful theme of a shining sun in the infant room to the mountains which carry over into the toddler room. I, personally, like to think of them as the sunrise of their lives to the feats they will accomplish later. Shout out to Fae Swetz, Betty Halbert, Jim Rubin, and Gary Moore for all their help!

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: KINDERGARTEN-FIFTH GRADE

Our current teachers are Vivian Moore, Kim Olive-Vrieze, Fae Swetz, and Derrick Marston and myself partnered together. Lynn Leiter has also expressed interest and we hope to have her scheduled in soon. Jenna Swetz will occasionally assist her mother as well. We all have our own teaching styles and an outline created by Pastor Mike Wey which helps us to teach the same topics we learn each week during his sermons. I love this because families can continue to discuss the lessons learned and grow our understanding of our wonderful God and strengthen our bonds.

We've also begun redecorating our children's church room. I asked the kids what color we should paint the room. After some hesitation at the question, one child suggested rainbow. Everyone happily agreed to that and my mind began racing with ideas. Our Noah's arc will be put to use again! Another shout out to Fae and Betty for helping this come to life!

YOUTH: GRADES 6+

We do not currently have youth group meetings. Starting in autumn, however, Pastor Mike will be leading a youth Bible study during our small groups on Sunday mornings before service.

FAMILY FUN DAY: NOVEMBER 2025

This was our only Family Fun Day that we hosted this past year. We had about five families visit and I would've been happy with a single person. At each of the past events, I've made little mental notes about what worked and what didn't and hope to put that info to use at future ones. Perhaps, we will host more this year. It mostly hinges on the volunteers and the time. Thank you to everyone who helped with games, booths, snacks, and clean up.

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

FROM THE DESK OF THE CHILDREN'S/YOUTH ELDER

It's not really a desk. What a year it has been. This is my first year as elder of anything and it has come with much learning and I hope this year continues that learning. We've made big strides in updating the spaces for our littles and I hope they love it all. I'm excited to see these spaces complete. I meant to keep this short and sweet like many of our little ones (save for the few that are nearing to towering over us), but it appears I have failed. Twice, even, because this is my second report as I accidentally deleted the first one just 20 minutes ago. Yay me! By the grace of God I was able to remember all the important bits, I think. Thank you all for your guidance and I hope to continue to grow in knowledge and service to our future leaders.

Takemi Marston
Children Ministry



“ 1 John 3:1a
See what amazing love the Father
has given us! Because of it, we are
called children of God. And that's
what we really are! ”



BUILDING AND GROUNDS

The care and improvement of Evergreen Church's building and property were major priorities throughout 2025. Through the dedication of volunteers, generous donations, and thoughtful planning, significant progress was made in maintaining and enhancing both the interior and exterior of the church facilities.

One of the most substantial accomplishments of the year was the installation of a new roof on half of the building, along with the addition of three new skylights. This work addressed critical areas of concern and will help protect the building for years to come. In addition, Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the roof repair project were completed, with the associated costs met through designated congregational donations and a single grant, allowing the work to proceed without placing strain on the operating budget.

Additional exterior improvements included the purchase of new cones and stanchions for the parking lot gate, improving safety and traffic flow. The church also received generous gifts of two lawn mowers and a large blower donated by the VA Golf Course, greatly supporting ongoing grounds maintenance.

For the first time, the property experienced a mole issue in the lawn, which required professional attention. A mole removal company was engaged to address the problem and protect the church grounds.

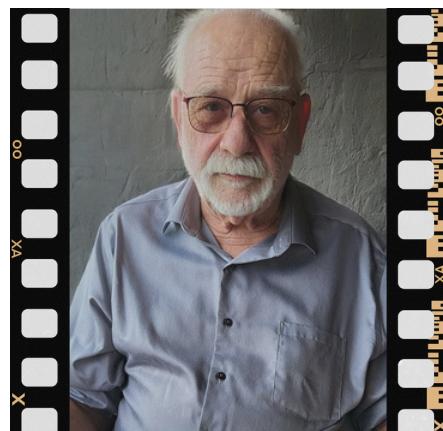
Several interior improvements were also completed during the year. The Nursery and Toddler Rooms were renovated with fresh paint and custom shelving, creating cleaner, safer, and more functional spaces for our youngest members and their caregivers. These updates reflect Evergreen's ongoing commitment to providing welcoming and well-maintained environments for children and families.

Evergreen is especially grateful to Jim Rubin, Takemi Marstin, Fae Swetz, Betty Halbert and Ana Staudenraus, whose time, skills, and dedication contributed significantly to these interior improvements.

Routine maintenance and repairs continued throughout the year to ensure the building remained safe, accessible, and welcoming for worship, ministry, and community use. Leadership also continued to assess future needs, including remaining roof work, sidewalk repairs, and other preventative maintenance projects.

We give thanks for the many volunteers, donors, and community partners whose generosity and service made these accomplishments possible. Through their combined efforts, Evergreen Church was able to care faithfully for its facilities while continuing its mission in 2025.

Gary D Moore
Grounds and Building



HOSPITALITY AND NURTURE

Jan-25

Changed paraments and set Sanctuary to Ordinary Time
Pot luck
Made an appreciation plaque for Kirsten Lampson
Gave out 2 welcome bags

Feb-25

Pot Luck
Hospitality Meeting
Gave out 1 Welcome bag

Mar-25

Changed Paraments and set Sanctuary for Lenten Season
Pot luck
Lenten Pancake Supper

Apr-25

Changed Paraments and set Sanctuary for Ordinary time
Pot luck
Memorial service Zach Yabarra 200+ attendees
Gave out 1 welcome bag

May-25

Pot Luck (Cinc de Mayo theme)
Mother's Day flowers (3 dozen carnations)
Gave out 3 welcome bags

Jun-25

Pot Luck
Changed paraments for Pentacost and back to regular time
Father's Day (Dad's Rootbeer)

Jul-25

Pot luck
Changed Paraments for Independence Day and Back to Ordinary time
Gave out 2 Welcome Bags

Aug-25

Changed paraments and set Sanctuary to Ordinary Time
Pot luck
Hospitality Meeting
New Member Class luncheon

Sep-25

Pot Luck
2nd New Member Class Luncheon
Gave out 1 Welcome bag

Oct-25

Pot Luck
Pastor Appreciation Arrangements
Gave out 1 Welcome bag

Nov-25

Pot Luck
Gave out 3 Welcome bags
Changed Paraments and set Sanctuary to Advent

Dec-25

Pot Luck
Decorate for Christmas Season
Assembled 7 New Welcome kits

Evergreen Church extends its heartfelt gratitude to our Hospitality Team for the care, warmth, and dedication you share so generously. Through your welcoming presence, thoughtful preparation, and quiet acts of service, you help create an environment where all feel invited, valued, and at home.

Your efforts—whether setting up, serving, cleaning up, or simply offering a kind word—play a vital role in nurturing fellowship and strengthening our church community.

Each of you embody the spirit of Christian Hospitality and reflect God's love and we are deeply thankful for each person who serves on the Hospitality Team:
Vivian Moore, Kay Tucker, Barb Rubin, Takemi Marston, Mary Turner, Ellen Sandstrom, Kim Vrieze, Betty Halbert, Ana Staudenraus.



Fae Swetz
Ruling Elder

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Evergreen Presbyterian Women offer the opportunity for the women of our congregation to come together for Bible study and the charitable of support to various charities.

Currently we send financial support to 8 different charities. A big part in supporting these charities is through our two fund raisers each year. Our Father's Day Bake Sale and the Christmas Cookie & Candy Sale. It is through the generosity of our congregation that we are able to hold these "Bake, Bring & Buy" fund raisers. This past year we raised over \$800 through these two fund raisers. Our heartfelt thanks to you all.

In addition, we alternate supply drives for Helping Hand House and CareNet of Puget Sound. This past year we held a supply drive for Helping Hand House. This organization provides emergency shelter and housing solutions to families in our community to bring an end to the crisis of homelessness. Once again, our congregation stepped up with donations of new pillows, sheets, blankets kitchen items and cleaning supplies. Thank you all!

On July 26th we held our "Summer Garden" picnic. It was a lovely day for a picnic with everyone enjoying hamburgers, hot dogs, many delicious salads as well as good fellowship. This is a no cost picnic in gratitude to our church for their support of PW throughout the year.

For the 2025-26 year our Bible study is taking us on an in-depth look at people of the Bible.



EVER GREEN COMMUNITY GARDEN

The year 2025 was an interesting one for the garden. Extremely hot days and a longer summer meant watering often. There were four new gardeners and two used water emitters, solar powered pumps and mulch to hydrate their plantings.

The fruit trees had bumper yields which were given to others.

A new garden club was started through Hill and Dale District Garden Club which will serve the Graham area and meets at our church the second Wednesday of each month. The club will use the community garden as a training area and help in its care. The group chose Sunshine and Rain as its name, as we need both to grow our garden.

I am looking forward to 2026 to see what the year will bring to our 16th year of being a community garden. We have beds available and if you want to check out the garden club or the garden, please do so.

Vivian Moore



DEACONS

Monthly Meetings and Prayerful Consideration

Deacons gather once a month for structured meetings focused on addressing the needs and concerns of church members. These sessions are not just administrative but are rooted in prayer, emphasizing a spiritual approach to problem-solving and decision-making.

During these meetings, deacons might:

- Share updates on the families or individuals they're supporting, discussing any emerging issues like health problems, financial hardships, emotional struggles, or spiritual doubts.
- Collaborate to allocate resources, such as organizing meal deliveries, financial assistance from church funds, or referrals to professional counseling.
- Pray collectively for guidance, healing, and wisdom, ensuring their actions align with the church's mission of compassion and community care. This prayerful aspect underscores the deacon's role as a spiritual servant, blending practical help with faith-based intercession.

Parish Assignments and Family Oversight

Each deacon is given a "parish," which is essentially a small group of families or households within the church congregation. This assignment system ensures personalized attention and prevents anyone from falling through the cracks in a larger church body. In practice, this involves:

- Regular check-ins, such as phone calls, emails, home visits, or in-person meetings, to build relationships and monitor well-being. For example, a deacon might reach out quarterly or more frequently if a family is facing a crisis.
- Acting as a liaison between the family and the broader church, relaying needs to pastors, elders, or other ministry teams. This connectivity helps integrate families into church life, perhaps by inviting them to events, small groups, or volunteer opportunities.
- Providing tailored support, like coordinating help during life events (e.g., births, illnesses, deaths, or moves). The report highlights offering "prayers of healing and support," which could extend to leading family prayer sessions, sharing devotional resources, or simply being a listening ear during tough times.

Those serving on this year's Board of Deacons were Sherry Grout, Roy Tucker, Ana Staudenraus and Mary Turner. Saundra Manger stepped down in July. Mike Wey was filling an empty spot.

MISSIONS

“ To be the salt of the earth and let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Mathew 5: 13-16.

Evergreen continued to collect foodstuffs from our congregation each month to support distributions to local families in need. For this endeavor, Evergreen maintains its rotating list of categories of food stuff and our congregation continuous to be generous with their gifts. The foodstuffs collected are delivered to the Food Pantry located at the Lutheran Church of St Paul, which is a short distance from Evergreen. Jim and Barb Rubin make the deliveries of our foodstuffs being provided. Mary Turner and Barb Rubin also provide regular help at the Food Pantry, particularly needed on the large delivery days from the Puyallup Food Bank.

Mission provided “Lite Nourishment” following the outdoor & SonRise service on Easter Sunday. This event appears to be the only outdoor “Son Rise” service in our area and is always attended by some who may not normally attend a Sunday service at Evergreen or elsewhere.

We continued to support Samaritan’s Purse Ministry where valuable contributions from our congregation provide for filling shoe boxes with Christmas gift items which are then distributed throughout the world.

The Holiday Family Food and Gift Project was also completed in 2024. Beginning with phase one (Thanksgiving), Evergreen provided meals for local children who would not receive a school meal during this school holiday time. We thank Ana Staudernraus and others for doing the overall planning and completion of phase one of the Holiday Family Food and Gift Project.

For Christmas (phase two) Evergreen provided age-appropriate gifts for multiple families with children, as well as food parcels. We had a great crew for both phases doing the purchasing and supporting the handoff to the families in a manner that retained the dignity of the recipients and where they could share their personal gratitude. Many members of our congregation played an important role to provide new and age specific gifts to those in need. We also received financial support from Presbyterian Women.

MISSIONS

Continuing a tradition, Evergreen continued to support Presbyterian Women's "Crystal's Mitten Tree" by collecting hats and mittens (many of which were handmade) to provide for children in our community during the cold winter months. These items were placed as Christmas ornaments on a Christmas tree in Unruh Hall and are set for delivery after the rush of the Christmas holiday. Distributions are made through the local Food Pantry, where food stuffs are delivered.

Evergreen also continues to shine our light overseas, as we continued to support the Tai Dam ministries and missionaries in Malaysia and Somalia.

The Mission Committee thanks each person at Evergreen for their generous contributions and supporting hands. And a special thank you goes to Presbyterian Women for their support in all these endeavors.

With God's grace,
respectfully submitted,
Warren Spencer, Mission Elder



LIBRARY

Just a gentle reminder that books borrowed from the Library are due back within two weeks so that others may enjoy them as well. Please take a moment to check your bookshelves, bags, and classrooms for any outstanding Library books and return them to the basket along the back wall. For inventory purposes, we kindly ask that returned books not be placed back on the shelves.

We would also appreciate your help in keeping the Library organized and welcoming. The Library is intended for books only and is not a depository or storage space for unwanted or miscellaneous items. Any non-Library materials should be removed and kept elsewhere.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us care for this shared resource.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Woodbury

FINANCE

The financial life of Evergreen in 2025 reflects a year of careful stewardship, faithful giving, and shared commitment amid significant property-related challenges. While the year required close attention to expenses and priorities, the congregation remained focused on sustaining the mission and ministry of the church.

Income remained relatively stable throughout the year, supported by the consistent generosity of members and friends of Evergreen. This faithfulness enabled the church to continue worship, outreach, and day-to-day operations while also responding to unexpected and necessary building needs.

A major financial focus in 2025 was the cost of critical roof repairs. Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the roof project were completed to address areas of active damage and prevent further deterioration. These repairs represented a substantial expense; however, the cost was met through designated donations and the support of a single grant awarded specifically for this work. Together, congregational generosity and grant funding allowed these repairs to be completed without compromising Evergreen's overall financial stability.

In addition to property-related expenses, Evergreen experienced rising costs in areas such as insurance, utilities, and personnel-related benefits. Leadership responded with careful monitoring of spending, thoughtful prioritization of essential needs, and ongoing financial oversight.

As part of our commitment to good stewardship, the church continues to evaluate giving methods and associated processing costs. Giving online directly through a bank account incurs a minimal flat fee of approximately 25 cents per transaction, allowing a greater portion of each gift to support ministry. In contrast, credit card donations are subject to percentage-based processing fees, which reduce the net amount received by the church. While all forms of giving are deeply appreciated, members are encouraged to consider bank-based online giving as a cost-effective option.

Looking ahead, Evergreen will continue to plan for remaining property needs, including future phases of roof repair, while also preparing for anticipated increases in insurance and medical costs. These realities underscore the importance of ongoing stewardship, transparency, and shared responsibility.

We give thanks for the generosity of our congregation and the grant support that made these essential repairs possible. Through prudent management and faithful giving, Evergreen remains positioned to move forward with hope, responsibility, and trust in God's provision.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR EVERGREEN FUND REPORT 2025

FINANCE

	<u>12/31/2024 Cash In</u>	<u>Cash Out</u>	<u>12/31/2025 Explanation</u>
GENERAL	(87,937.42)	202,791.48	161,215.10
BENEVOLENCE	8,190.62	910.00	484.05
SPECIAL DONATIONS	532.09	165.00	311.00
THANKSGIVING/CHRISTMAS	5,688.25	1,185.00	392.25
SPECIAL BUILDING MAINT	10,765.05	0.00	0.00 transferred to combined
BUILD/PROP MAINT	1,497.25		0.00 transferred to combined
SIGN	26,607.55		0.00 transferred to combined
SPECIAL BUILDING COMBINED	0.00	86,870.37	51,999.56
YOUTH GROUP	391.09		391.09 Combined total from 4 funds
COMMUNITY DINNERS	704.32		704.32 plus amounts collected for 2025
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	0.00		0.00
WOMAN'S RETREAT	2,509.62		2,509.62
COMMUNITY GARDEN	317.05	105.00	422.05
DESIGNATED MISSIONS	0.00		0.00
WORSHIP/MUSIC	1,661.25		1,661.25
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD	0.00	140.00	140.00
FINANCIAL LITERACY	0.00		0.00
MISSION TRIP - ADULT	635.00		635.00
MISSION TRIP - YOUTH	1,179.03		1,179.03
MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP	231.86		231.86
LUNCH BUNCH	438.78		0.00 transferred to combined
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN	10.00	560.00	510.00
EPC DENOMINATION OFFERINGS	0.00		0.00
AUCTION	0.00		0.00
KITCHEN	150.00		150.00
MEMORIALS	0.00		0.00
RESERVE	147,017.88		87,937.42 59,080.46 trans. To checking in Jan
MISSIONS	0.00		0.00
PASTOR TRANSITION COST	1,445.86		1,445.86
CONSTRUCTION/REPAIR/INS	(1,469.16)		(1,469.16)
TOTAL	120,565.97	292,726.85	303,428.16 70,994.81

FINANCE

Category	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	Approved 2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
INCOME CATEGORIES									
General Offerings	164,587	125,942	124,920	103,801	97,749	127,860	167,480	115,101	175,160
General Offerings: In Kind Giving	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
General Offerings: Online Giving Fees	(180)	(402)	(533)	(278)	(707)	(794)	(800)	(1,017)	(1,000)
General Offerings: Miscellaneous Income	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
General Offerings: Interest Income	4,008	4,270	978	505	4,145	4,089	4,000	769	100
General Offerings Total	168,445	129,810	125,365	104,028	101,187	131,155	170,680	114,854	174,260
EXPENSE CATEGORIES									
Miscellaneous	7	12	11	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Taxes	-	-	19	19	-	-	-	-	-
Hospitality and Nurture	-	-	300	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hospitality and Nurture: Women's Retreat	1,621	-	-	-	-	-	500	-	-
Hospitality and Nurture: Congregational Activities	273	-	17	163	283	-	100	180	200
Hospitality and Nurture: Kitchen Supplies	2,489	925	68	745	1,046	1,043	1,000	1,021	1,000
Christian Education	-	-	-						
Christian Education: Curriculum	603	115	507	678	-	-	100	-	50
Christian Education: Nursery Supplies	42	-	-	76	27	-	50	-	50
Christian Education: VBS/Family Day	644	-	-	-	46	-	50	-	50
Christian Education: Youth Ministry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Christian Education: Gifts - Grads, Bibles, etc	16	-	-	-	175	-	100	-	50
Christian Education: Leadership Training	-	-	157	-	-	-	50	-	50
Property	-	-	-						
Property: License & Permits	797	264	744	368	287	391	400	109	400
Property: Technology Equipment	409	1,752	401	366	-	-	500	54	500
Property: Property Maintenance	2,181	2,006	648	89	305	2,502	1,000	573	1,000
Property: Utilities	6,810	5,964	7,486	6,116	10,188	7,527	8,000	10,993	10,000
Property: Insurance	7,034	8,080	6,322	6,188	6,902	7,754	7,750	2,001	10,000
Property: Equipment Maintenance	887	462	945	1,021	1,068	1,050	1,000	1,115	500
Property: Equipment Needs	2,826	1,093	153	160	1,925	447	1,000	140	500
Property: Road Maintenance	-	800	400	400	400	400	400	-	400
Property: Copier Maintenance and Lease	4,342	4,061	4,175	4,679	2,653	1,804	2,000	3,022	2,000
Property: Van Expense	252	91	888	-	-	490	250	-	250

FINANCE

Property:Dues/Fees	204	762	961	763	1,054	1,254	1,000	1,442	1,000
Property:Custodial Supplies	292	57	171	95	201	428	300	521	400
Property:Web Site	572	98	293	917	1,081	133	1,000	986	600
Property:Web Advertising	97	36	10	126	77	18	50	72	50
Property:Telephone	2,267	2,853	2,740	2,949	3,655	3,486	3,500	3,690	3,500
Property:Office Supplies	709	404	158	330	140	255	250	356	250
Property:Postage/PO Box	449	397	377	457	424	430	450	382	450
Denominational	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Denominational:Per Member Ask	3,450	3,463	3,608	3,307	2,583	1,819	2,100	1,907	2,100
Denominational:General Assembly Travel	82	50	-	2,098	-	2,786	2,500	-	2,500
Denominational:Presbytery Travel	501	201	1,441	992	984	1,213	1,500	1,768	1,500
Worship	-	-	38	-	-	-	-	-	-
Worship :Church Decorations	40	50	37	-	-	24	50	-	50
Worship :Pulpit Supply	625	250	125	250	250	300	400	250	400
Worship :Music - Sunday Service	18	1,704	31	64	-	-	-	-	-
Worship :Music - Choir	181	-	-	-	-	(20)	50	-	50
Worship :Copyright License	-	205	-	-	-	-	-	-	200
Worship :Sacramental Needs	44	-	38	19	-	-	50	-	50
Worship :Worship Aids	54	413	4	9	42	-	-	-	-
Mission	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mission:Europe Refugee Mission	1,425	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,375	1,200	1,333	1,200
Mission:New Church Development	1,500	-	1,500	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mission:World Concern, Media Outreach	1,100	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,100	1,000	1,100	1,000
Mission:Community Garden	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mission:Miga Malaysia Mission	1,575	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,375	1,300	1,417	1,300
Mission:AHEAD Thai Mission	1,800	1,800	-	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,650	1,600	1,600
Mission:Community Dinner	795	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mission:Mission - Event	-	-	-	-	65	80	100	-	-
Mission:Other Local and Regional Mission	442	-	373	421	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Staff	-	-	-	-	(3)	-	-	(1)	-
Professional Staff:Background Checks	198	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Staff:Federal Withholding	236	417	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Staff:Medicare	215	293	266	248	358	306	300	305	200
Professional Staff:Other Wages	-	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Professional Staff:Paid Family & Medical Leave	146	23	-	35	(3)	400	(1)
Professional Staff:Social Security	921	1,252	1,136	1,060	1,531	1,307	1,300
Professional Staff:Transitional Pastor(s)	-	-	-	-	1,070	-	-
WA long term care insurance	-	-	-	-	(27)	-	-
Professional Staff:Pastor Housing	31,583	32,004	32,004	20,667	24,000	26,000	26,000
Professional Staff:Pastor Salary	34,494	34,239	34,239	33,603	41,000	42,250	42,250
Professional Staff:Pastor Retirement	6,277	6,274	6,274	5,301	2,550	6,770	6,300
Professional Staff:Pastor Medical Insurance	2,293	2,070	2,484	2,484	15,921	27,116	24,400
Professional Staff:Pastor Life Insurance	333	625	167	111	130	174	500
Professional Staff:Study Leave	-	-	34	-	-	-	-
Professional Staff:Pastor Mileage	1,772	3,050	1,747	3,335	1,065	975	1,000
Professional Staff:Pastor's Mission Expense	-	9	3	13	-	-	-
Professional Staff:Administrative Assistant	9,344	9,403	8,510	8,685	14,341	12,450	12,000
Professional Staff:Nursery Attendants	2,679	2,964	2,141	1,993	2,675	2,398	2,700
Professional Staff:Pianist	4,268	4,613	4,285	3,914	3,296	4,466	3,000
Professional Staff:Treasurer	3,000	3,204	3,060	2,837	3,020	2,745	3,600
Professional Staff:Staff Training	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Staff:Youth Director	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Staff:Labor and Industries	1,010	603	591	612	651	720	600
Expense Categories Total	164,228	152,707	145,339	153,121	142,786	165,535	167,480
Excess (Loss)	4,217	(22,897)	(19,974)	(49,093)	(41,600)	(34,380)	(46,209)

INCOME UNDER EXPENDITURES TRENDS



Status of Accounts

As of December 31, 2025

\$16,581
Checking Acct

\$3,880
Savings Acct

\$50,731
Mutual Fund Acct

\$115,101

INCOME OVER (UNDER)
EXPENDITURES
(↓ 30% SINCE 2019)

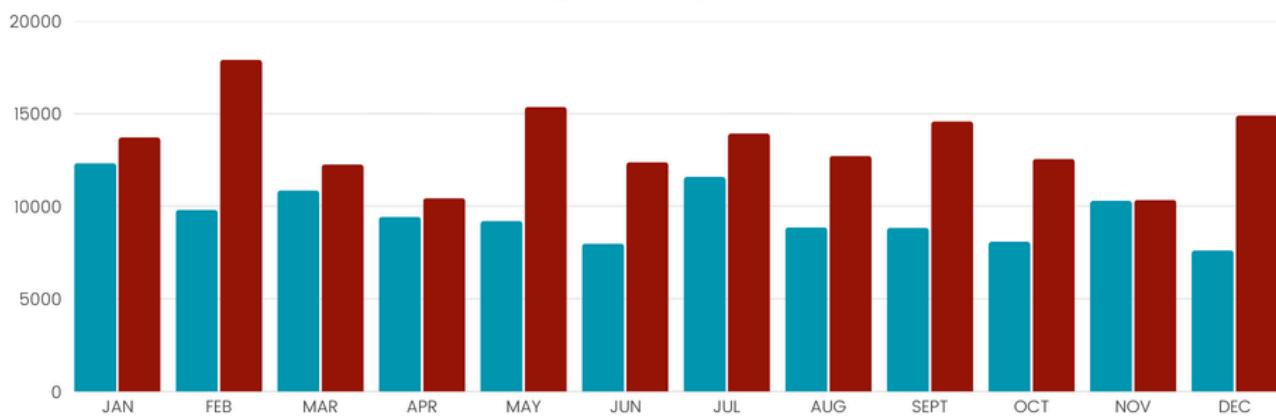
\$161,063

EXPENDITURES
SALARIES/OVERHEAD/DESIGNATED

\$(42,209)

Difference

● OFFERINGS ● EXPENSES



2025

MONTHLY AVERAGE

\$13,422 monthly

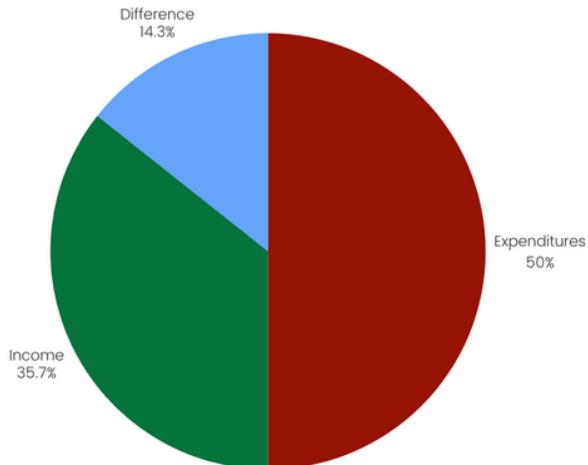
EXPENDITURES

\$ 9,571 monthly

INCOME OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES

\$ 3,851 monthly

DIFFERENCE



FINANCE

As we move forward together, we remain rooted in the faith, care, and spirit of collaboration that define Evergreen Church. While challenges may arise, we trust in God's guidance as we continue this journey as a united community.

Thank you for your ongoing support and faithful commitment to the mission of our church. Through transparency, generosity, and open communication, we strengthen our shared ministry and our ability to move forward together.

If you are able, we invite you to prayerfully consider maintaining or increasing your giving, as your support helps sustain the ministries that serve both our church family and the wider community.

Above all, we ask you to join us in prayer—for God's wisdom, provision, and peace for every member of Evergreen Church in the season ahead.

Faithful God,

We gather before you with thankful hearts, acknowledging that every good gift comes from your hand. You have sustained Evergreen Church through every season, and we trust you as we look toward what lies ahead.

Grant us clarity of mind and unity of spirit as we make decisions for the life of this church. Help us to listen carefully—to your Spirit, to one another, and to the needs of the community you have called us to serve. Shape our choices so that they reflect your love, your justice, and your faithfulness.

Teach us to hold what we have with open hands. Free us from fear, strengthen us with courage, and deepen our trust in your provision. May our stewardship be marked by generosity, wisdom, and gratitude, remembering always that this church belongs to you. Bless the ministries we support, the people we serve, and the work we do in your name. Use what is offered to bring hope, healing, and renewal, far beyond what we can imagine.

Root us firmly in Christ, unite us in purpose, and lead us forward with confidence—not in our own strength, but in your abiding presence.

We place our future in your care, trusting that you will guide our steps and sustain us always.

Amen.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee would like to thank Ruling Elders Warren Spencer for his service on Session. Jim has served his three-year term on Session and Marilyn has moved to Michigan, while Steve Conyers is taking two years to travel with his wife Janice.

The committee would also like to thank Barb Rubin, Vivan Moore, and Judi Spencer for their service as Deacons.

The Nominating Committee makes the following nominations:

- Persons leaving Deacons this year.
 - 1) Mike Wey
 - 2) Saundra Manger
 - 3) Open Position
- Persons being nominated for the Deacons class of 2028
 - 1) Rosie Thun (2026)
 - 2) Tracy Wey
 - 3) Kirsten Lampson
- Persons leaving Session this year
 - 1) Warren Spencer
- Persons being nominated for Session for the class of 2028
 - 1) Ellen Sandstrom
 - 2) Barb Rubin
- Persons being nominated for the 2026 Nominating Committee from the congregation
 - 1) Ron Terry
 - 2) Fae Swetz
 - 3) Ana Staudenraus
 - 4) Karen Murad
 - 5) David Swetz

ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

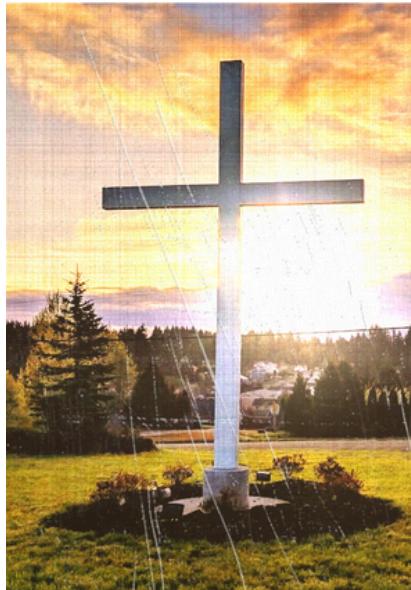
According to the By-Laws of Evergreen Church Section IV Church Offices under Board of Trustees: There shall be a board of trustees comprised of three (3) trustees divided into three equal classes, one class of whom shall be elected each year at a congregational meeting in January, for a three-year term. Only a person elected for a term on the Session shall be eligible for election for a term as trustee, and when such qualified person is elected as trustee, she/he shall serve only for the duration of the term for which elected as a member of the Session.

Current Trustees are as follows:

- Gary Moore (2027)
- Derrick Marston (2026)
- Warren Spencer (2025)

Person(s) replacing Trustee Position:

-



FINAL PRAYER

*"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work".
(2 Corinthians 9:8)*

Faithful and gracious God,

We thank you for your constant presence with Evergreen Church through every season. As we reflect on the past year and look ahead to 2026, we give thanks for your provision, your guidance, and the many ways you have sustained this church family.

We are grateful for the people who serve, give, lead, and pray—often quietly and faithfully. Bless the ministries, relationships, and shared work represented in this report. May they reflect your love, your justice, and your compassion in our congregation and in the wider community.

As we move into a new year, grant us wisdom to discern your will, courage to respond to your call, and humility to trust in your grace. Strengthen us when challenges arise, unite us when decisions must be made, and inspire us to serve with joy and faithfulness.

Guide Evergreen Church to be a place of welcome, healing, and hope. May all that we do in 2026 glorify you and bear witness to Christ's love in the Graham and Kapowsin community and beyond.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Amen.

EVERGREEN CHURCH

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(PO BOX 1447)

GRAHAM, WASHINGTON 98338



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EVERGREEN CHURCH

